

NORTHERN UFO NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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ISSUE 50

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 Gtr Manchester, N & S Humberside, Leicestershire, Merseyside,
 Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire & West Midlands counties.

EDITORIAL: Looking towards the hundredth.

It is perhaps a nice coincidence that this 50th issue is published the same week as MUFOB (Metempirical UFO Bulletins) 10th anniversary issue appears. We wish MUFOB all the best, of course. It is a vital aspect of ufo literature, with a specialised field to cover (UFOs as human experiences). Undoubtedly, its contributions to ufology right now, along with its less psychologically based compatriots FSR and UFO RESEARCH REVIEW, are much more substantial than those of NORTHERN UFO NEWS. Ours have a longer time base, since we are primarily a repository for the future.

It is wise at this juncture to take stock of our position, not just as a newsletter but as a network, and look at the kind of things we should be planning as we head towards the hundredth issue (in September 1982).

NUFON primarily exists to foster cooperation. It does not go in for rules, regulations committees or such like. These are the bane of ufology as one ends up spending all one's time and effort administrating rather than investigating or researching. Of course the associate groups all have their own ideas about internal administration. Some go for large memberships (like UAPROL), but others (like UFORA Staffs and MUFORA) do not have open-ended membership and stick to the hard-core active element. NUFON has to be flexible enough to accommodate all kinds of ufo group and all manner of ufologist - PROVIDED they are reasonably logical in their work and not of the pseudo-religious, fanatical cultist approach. It must be a central coordination and communication point for them all - an ongoing entity that continues despite the comings and goings of many a group (and 12 groups have disappeared whilst NUFON has existed). Some of their data is preserved and that is one vital function. Having built up the repository at Nottingham we must continue to expand its availability. The data there is open to be used by researchers - not locked in some filing cabinet. It also now exists on two levels; the general NUFON data (for work such as statistics) and the UFOIN high strangeness data (for more specialist work).

NUFON further fosters cooperation by means of its regular conferences, which have thankfully been expanding in number and geographical spread over the region. Their content has also pleasingly produced of late some valuable papers contributing in some small way to research.

Finally, what of this newsletter? It exists to keep YOU up to date and to provide a reasonably comprehensive record of ufo activity in the north and midlands. It is wise to recognise limitations and not try to compete with the likes of FSR. This specific function - dry as it might seem to some (including at frustrating times the editors!) - has to be done. We shall try to make it worth your subscription with a few lively pieces and new publication plans BUT remember your £3 is not supporting a magazine it is supporting a network of importance to all our futures.

NUFON PUBLICATIONS LIST: 1975 UFO Booklist (WUFOS)* Lincolnshire report analysis (SUFORS) UFO Report sociological analysis (WUFOS)* NUFON 1970-74 Analysis Report* 1976 1975 NUFON Analysis & Statistics Report* Sheffield Conference Proceedings = Northern Ufology 1 (WUFOS) 1977 Northern Ufology 2 (UFOIS) 1976 NUFON Analysis & Statistics Report = Northern Ufology 3 (FAPURG)* Overseas Supplement A* 1978 Close Encounters of the Northern Kind (40p booklet)=

In Process; 1977 NUFON Analysis & Statistical Report Northern Ufology 4 (MAPIT)

* Available BRYAN HARTLEY = Available JENNY RANGLES (Addresses p.10) † Unavailable

NUFON - From small beginnings

In the Summer of 1973 an advertisement appeared in the personal column of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. It carried an appeal for members to join a new ufo organisation called FSIT (Flying Saucer Investigation Team). Whilst this collapsed before it began, the few disillusioned ufologists and the enthusiastic schoolkids finding no common purpose, it did act as a catalyst. The man who placed the advert vanished from the ufo scene, but not before two FSIT branches had begun without him!

From this fortuitous, perhaps even mysterious origin FSIT Manchester (later MAPIT) and FSIT Nottingham (soon to become NUFOIS) met to reconsider plans. Their new national venture they labelled PROBE - but it too failed to receive support, although many of its ideals were incorporated into the embryonic NUFON. By Christmas 1973 PROBE had gone out like a damp squib and MAPIT and NUFOIS temporarily separated. Going their own way MAPIT expanded their publication SKYWATCH and NUFOIS also devised the forerunner of UFO RESEARCH REVIEW (both still well respected publications). MAPIT, however, forged links with other ufo groups in the north west and in March 1974 met the West Pennine Research Group (later to be integrated with MUFORA, Manchester). A moderated unification - restricted to the north west - was planned and a charter drawn up for the creation of UNO (Union of Northern Observers).

This fanciful name hid the significance of the concept; at first aimed to be a gentle progression towards a super-group (to challenge the ineffectiveness of the national association, BUFORA, in the region). However, ideals soon moderated to what they are now, leading the way open for a much wider involvement of the regions ufology.

Of the original committee Jenny Randles and David Rees are still involved of course but Dorothy Higson and David Morley (the first journal editor) soon departed. The original four groups included MAPIT, SUFORS and WUFOS - who are all still associated. However, it took a while to get information flowing and the first few issues of UNO NEWS were a hodge podge of letters, adverts and very little else! The first sighting (in issue 2) was of a white diamond hovering over Lostock Gralam, Cheshire.

Jenny Randles took over the magazine with issue 5 and it is interesting to note the spread of research even at those early dates; such as "Is the wave phenomenon real?" (an analytical comparison of media interest and sighting report ratios) plus circuit diagrams for UFO detectors and geiger counters!

The winter of 74-75 brought an internal crisis and a dire need to revamp the image. At a significant meeting on January 30 1975 the new names NUFON and NORTHERN UFO NEWS were adopted and a less dictatorial approach instituted, leading to direct liaison with BUFORA and the support of the long standing Yorkshire branch. Indeed one of the biggest fears at the time, expressed by several groups, was that BUFORA was about to make a take over bid for us all!!!

1975 was a critical year with the publication of our first special issues and the staging of the second conference, in Manchester, following on from a more modest effort by WUFOS on the Wirral in 1974. But the big breakthrough came when the BBC asked us to prepare a slot for their OPEN DOOR programme. Peter Warrington and Jenny Randles (MUFORA) and Ken Green and Mike Dean (WUFOS) presented the campaign with guest Roger Stanway (Chairman of BUFORA at the time). For the occasion issue 15 of NUN was litho printed in vast numbers and a few still remain at 20p if anyone is interested.

OPEN DOOR was a huge success and brought NUFON instant recognition. The next meeting saw the amazing sight of the room being full to overbrimming and 1976 began with associated groups having doubled inside a year. This was the year of consolidation of our motives and the initiation of 'Detailed Sighting Supplements' to allow better coverage of high strangeness incidents (quickly superseded when a close liaison with FSR enabled detailed reports to be published there). There was also a popular series in the NUN on investigation techniques and the implementation of NORTHERN UFOLOGY - our irregular full scale magazine, edited in turn by different groups.

NUFON - From small beginnings Cont...

The conference, in Sheffield, was a great success. The papers were subsequently published as a special issue and included items from officials of BUFORA, CONTACT and NUFON (the first time the "big three" organisations of the UK had all been on the same bill! On 1977 we added FSR (with the welcome appearance of Charles Bowen) and one of our aims was fulfilled - British ufology was at least beginning to work together.

1977 would have seen NUFON much as it is today, with the great British wave of sightings testing our resilience. So huge was the wave, in fact, that the 1977 NUFON report has yet to see the light of day. The biggest disappointment was the breakdown of relations with BUFORA. Many groups had had liaison problems with 'London's biggest local group' (as they called it), and when they pressed for improvements petty disputes led to open warfare for a time (fortunately the peace clouds are beginning to appear on the horizon). Liaison with CONTACT (via the massive and long range historical data research project) and FSR (via the creation of the Investigators Network) continued to flourish - and NUFON's overseas links grew in amazing fashion with respect coming for our attempt at the "liaison concept"

And so to 1978 - and this milestone. 18 groups - interest booming thanks to CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND - new goals to aim for and wider and wider spreading of the workload and our localised functions. Let us all keep up the good work.

THE NUFON TEAM

It is true to say that the NUFON team is YOU. Without everyone involved in the 18 associated groups, or the individual investigator/researchers there would be no NUFON. However, special mentions must go to those who do so much to keep things ticking over. PETER WARRINGTON (MUFORA), who makes sure we have the little money we need to keep going in his capacity as Finance Supervisor. BRYAN HARTLEY (FAPURG), without whom we would be unknown outside the UK. He does enormous amounts of liaison and distribution work for us. JOHN CREE and his NUFOIS team-mates, who maintain the files in their home at 443 MEADOW LANE NOTTINGHAM NG2 3GB and answer all your queries and requests for help. This is the backbone of NUFON. Yet others deserve mention too.... Ken Green (WUFOS), who operates the tape library of ufo lectures, David Rees (MAPIT) who did a lot in the early days and who now is coming back once more into the fray (see p.4), Trevor Whitaker (BUFORA Yorks) who chaired so many of our meetings before we decided that a committee was just an unnecessary aspect of a free flowing network and Jeff Porter (MUFORA) who did more work behind the scenes in our formative years than most people know about. Paul Whetnall (WUFOS) and Jenny Randkes (MUFORA) are just the end of a long line that starts at you the investigator.... all we do is put everything together each month.

HIGH STRANGENESS ENCOUNTERS INVESTIGATED BY NUFON... Published in FSR *

Vol 21-6 (MUFORAs January 1975 Oldham flap) Vol 22-1 (DIGAP: Photo case from Rochdale, May 1975) Vol 22-3 (MUFORA/DIGAP; Mrs Lainchbury CE4 Little Lever 1964 & Mrs Kent CE3 Higher Fold May 1976) Vol 22-6 (IURC Mrs H CE4 Belfast 1970's & BUFORA Yorks Mr L CE4 Keighley February 1976) Vol 23-1 (Bill Muir Fencehouses Durham CE4 September 1976 & UFORA Staffs December 1976 Staffs flap) Vol 23-2 (MUFORAs; Bury PC Encounter April 1976 & Nelson car stop March 1977) Vol 23-3 (UFORA Staffs Coalville MIB encounter, October 1974; NUFOIS Bridlington CE2 January 1977 & SUFORS Burringham encounter May 1977) Vol 23-4 (MUFORA/FAPURGs New Elgin CE3 May 1977) Vol 23-5 (MUFORA/WUFOS Capel Curig encounter August 1967; CHRYSIS Barnard Castle EM encounter June 1977 & MUFORAs Irlam solid light July 1977) Vol 23-6 (DIGAP Rainford CE3 January 1978) Vol 24-1 (BUFORGs Newbiggin CE with animal effects July 1977 & MUFORAs Risley CE3 and CE4 with EM, Physio and Trace effects March 1978).

FSR is available from: FSR Publications West Malling Maidstone Kent *
Subscription £4.20 post inc Single issues 70p

PAGE THREE

NEWS ROUND-UP

Regular readers will join me in expressing thanks to Paul Whetnall (WUFOS), who has edited the news column for the past year. Paul will continue to coedit the newsletter with me, and fulfill other vital functions for NUFON (such as coding reports onto the American UFOCAT computer). His role in this capacity is to be ably filled by David Rees of MAPIT. Dave was one of the original founders of NUFON and has built up an excellent journalistic reputation for his chatty magazine SKYWATCH - c/o (92 Hillcrest Rd Offerton Stockport Cheshire SK2 5SE), which he has edited now for five years.

Jenny Randles

.....
BUFORG, the Border association, made a dynamic debut on television recently. Alan & Trisha Price, plus member Robert Lye, were featured alongside several local cases on the programme 'Northern Life' on May 24th. HAPI announce an internal change. Secretary Pat Berry is unfortunately unable to continue for a while owing to a domestic situation. We wish her well. Meantime the position is taken over by:- Mrs Jean Mayne 70 Burleigh Rd Hinckley Leicestershire Tel: 30217. Plans are underway with UAPROL for a direct merger of their investigative functions in the Leicestershire region - a wise move that could well be emulated in other parts of the area where several groups coexist within narrow confines. Changes too at MUFORA. Peter Warrington, who has been Chairman for approaching ten years now, has moved! Peter still keeps his Alderley Edge address (Tel: Alderley 584092) during school term times but his Manchester address is now:- 597 Mauldeth Rd West, Manchester 21. Since Peter is NUFON Treasurer THIS CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS VITAL. NUFOIS wish to apologise for any inconvenient delays in correspondence and work in hand of late. They have been modernising the HQ and revamping the filing system for both NUFON and UFOIN reports - a very worthwhile venture of course. If you are in the Nottingham area sometime go and see it for yourself, and try some research on the files (now approaching 1000 NUFON cases there).

Dates to note:

July 2 Roundhey Park, Leeds A major show which features a UFO stand organised by Graham Barker (4 Lunan Place Chapletown Leeds LS8 4ER Tel: 626262) Have you any material for it?

July 8 PULSE stage a lecture programme between 11 and 1pm in the foyer of the Odeon 2 in Preston. Free admission. Jenny Randles will be one of the speakers.

.....
NO COMMENT! (except the bits in the brackets... Jenny Randles)

Readers will recall the support NUFON gave to the BUDC (British UFO Documentation Centre) when it began in 1976. You will also recall the story of the recent Granada TV documentary and the Stonehenge movie film (see FSM Vol 23 NO 6) in the May issue editorial. The following quotations from an article in BUDC Bulletin No 4 by editor Alan West (better known to you as Alan Fossey) need, I think, no comment ...

"The amateurs consistently fail to produce it (decent material) themselves.... To make matters worse, some amongst our midst, yours and mine, calling themselves "ufo experts" get their sweaty hands on a piece of film, labelled UFO for want of a more apt term, and do silly things with it like show it to the world via Granada TV It looked to Paul Davies like army flares, to Ian Ridpath like ball lightning and to me like unintelligible squiggle of unimportant light. Neither Davies' nor Ridpath's explanations fit exactly. But to insinuate that the thing/things was/were a transdimensional conveyance is rather like telling the Pope you've just seen God. The accused (guess who?) made an idiot of herself, fools of those connected with the television show, the public - and worst - her alleged colleagues.... The UFO game is fraught with nincompoops like these, like playing monopoly with a schizoid. And one of the hardest lessons in life is learned when you appreciate that the buggers will not go away... To function the BUDC must put up with all this gunk... (that means you)... let's play a new game. Here's a machine gun: now stand in the middle of a crowd of ufologists with it and go round in a circle." (Amen!)

("...these events appear to be caused by an atmospheric electrical phenomenon..."
Quotation from Jenny Randles in Daily Express, the day of the TV programme)

NEWS FROM LEICESTER

UAPROL are launching a new service. Trevor Thornton - already well known in the Midlands for his 'Hot line' number - launches a telephone information service via a new phone (listed under UFO in phone directory and yellow pages) and a taped message service. It might be a good idea for you to plug this number via police, weather centres, information bureaux etc. Local cases can then be passed back to you:- LEICESTER 826545

Now that Jenny Randles is working full time in ufology her number may be used similarly for Northern Britain. 061- 775 - 4749

Plans are well underway for the Leicester Conference - SEPTEMBER 23 at the POSTHOUSE. More news will be featured next month but note there will be NO admission charge and lecturers for the afternoon will include Peter Warrington (UFO Photographic evidence); Dr Robert Morrell (UFO explanations); Kevin McClure (Psychic aspects of ufology) and hopefully, Charles Bowen of FSR. Make a date now!

----- INVESTIGATIONS SECTION -----

ANOTHER TWO CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

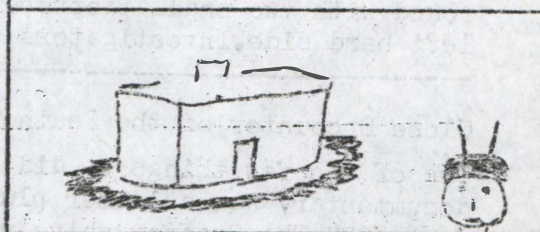
UFORA Staffs investigations
by Derek James & Phil Barnett

Both these reports will receive full UFOIN write-ups in FSR.

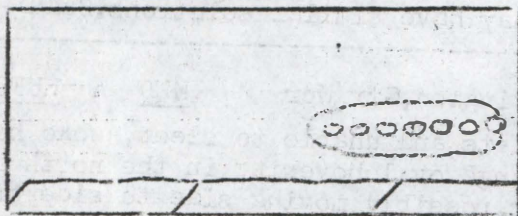
Mr W is an 85 year old man who recalls a remarkable encounter that occurred in Summer 1901 (!!!) It took place at Bournebrook, West Midlands on a warm sunny evening about 8pm. Mr W was just a young boy at the time, returning home to his terraced house. In the garden he saw a peculiar structure 5' long, 4' high and 3½' wide, looking like a box with a turret on it and coloured greeny blue. In the front was a door which opened outwards.

Two small men of humanoid appearance walked out. They wore tight fitting grey uniforms with a helmet on. Out of the top stuck two wires like antennae! One man stayed by the door the other came in the direction of the witness, arms outstretched seemingly warning him to get back. He then

went back inside the 'UFO' which took off with a sudden flash, a terrific noise and a red flame behind it. It zoomed into the sky in an arc, seen (possibly) by two other boys. Mr W is certain this was not a childish dream, although some details are obviously unconsciously added due to the great passage of time.



Lynn is a 32 year old housewife who remembers vividly a day she was playing ball with a friend in Summer 1954 (she thinks). At the time she lived in a terraced house in Hull, North Humberside. Glancing up she observed a silver 'aircraft'



with no wing, tail plane or markings. Along its side was a row of portholes or windows and looking out of these were two figures. Both appeared human-like and one was a woman, the other a man aged about 19/20 with light coloured hair. The woman half smiled at her as if to say, "Yes you really are

seeing this". The object was almost on top of the roof and was stationary and totally silent. The young boy who was with her saw this all as well. She glanced away for a moment and then looked back to find that the whole scene had just vanished without trace. She told nobody about her encounter - and only told her husband after she wrote to the Daily Express in February, this year.

Both witnesses have requested express anonymity and there seems no motive for conscious fabrication in either instance. The similarities of the 1901 encounter to the Airship stories of the 19th century are noteworthy as is the remarkable support that the latter case seems to offer for the classic Jessie Roestenberg Ranton, Staffs 'house-hoverer' and the Mrs Cresswell CE3 from Leicestershire referenced in the May issue of NUN. Both, of course, took place in the great 1954 wave.

6506 September 22 1965 (?) Cleethorpes, Sth Humber MED B SUFORS S4

The witness traced is one of many who saw a conical object with a pointed top hovering and spinning. A large number of aircraft converged onto the object at low altitude and two helicopters were hovering over the sea, but the UFO streaked up into the sky and was gone. The possibilities of weather balloon/or military exercises cannot be ruled out of course.

6507 November 5 1965 20.00 Eccles, Gtr Mcr MED A MUFORA S3

Five members of a family at a fireworks party observed the object in the NNW. It was bright cherry red, with a diffuse edge, and the apparent size of a tennis ball at arms length. It hovered at elevation 20 degrees for about fifteen minutes (over some railway sidings). After discounting the various possibilities such as firework or reflection they came to accept it as unusual. It then moved away slowly to the east, travelling one sixteenth of an arc in about ten seconds. At this point it simply disappeared. There is an ordnance factory in the vicinity.

7017 November 1970 23.00 Cleethorpes, Sth Humber MED B SUFORS S2

Two men sea fishing on the wall of the promenade observed a yellowish ellipse moving across the sky from SE to NE at a very fast rate (vanishing within seconds). It passed in a straight trajectory low on the horizon and sounds like a meteor.

7126 Late June 1971 Hinckley, Leics MED C HAPI S2

Mr Marshall was lying down sunbathing and idly watching aircraft when he saw a very large round object shining in the clear sky. He watched it through his binoculars for fifteen minutes as it glided very slowly. It was silvery and round with two small protruberances on the middle underside and the middle left hand side. Investigators are inclined to believe it was a balloon.

Close Encounter of the Feathered Kind.... UFOFA Staffs Report 7471 INST/P

One of the few things we did get out of Granada TV following the recent documentary was a letter plus colour print taken at Manchester Airport in June 1974. The Staffordshire witness did not see the object, which appeared as a fuzzy oval blur in the middle of the picture. However, the initial letter said "I have had it under magnification and it looks like a solid circular object with a heat haze around it." Investigators felt differently, since the image clearly appeared to be close to the camera and in motion, arousing instant suspicions of an aviary kind. Bazzbury Colour Research scanned using a fast shutter and sensitive sheet film and were able to reproduce the image of a bird... identifying the culprit without doubt. The effort put into this was felt justified because the photograph is a classic 'oval UFO'; no doubt indicating that many others of this ilk may have similar solutions. BEAK - areful!

76/152 March 1976 02.55 Partington, Gtr Mcr MED A MUFORA S3

A middle aged woman, on tranquilliser tablets and unable to sleep, awoke her husband to come and look at a strange orange oval hovering in the north at elevation 45 degrees. It seemed to shimmer, possibly moving side to side or up and down. After twenty minutes it moved away northwards, growing smaller and descending out of view. It vanished inside 5 seconds. She describes the size as very large and (one foot in diameter at arms length... try it!!) I am only waiting for the first witness report of the UFO, "the size of the world held at arms length." It has to come! The area is over oil refinery, steelworks and railway.

A BRIEF NOTE TO EXPLAIN REPORT CODINGS. CASE REF enables you to check the original in the NUFON files at Nottingham. Then date, time & place. UFO TYPE refers to the Randles/Warrington modification of Hyneks system viz LOW (no shape) MED (Shape but no effects) INST/P (Photo) /R (Radar) CE1 (Effects detected by witnesses) CE2 (permanent effects detectable by others) CE3 (Entities) CE4 (Psychic aspects) Additional letter codes for effects, eg T (Traces), EM (Electromagnetic) etc

A BRIEF NOTE Cont...

INVESTIGATION LEVEL as devised by Randles/Delair A (On site investigation), B (interviews) C (report form filled in) D (witness statement/letter) E (Third hand report - eg press cutting) GROUP NAME and finally a subjective editorial guide on the strangeness of encounter (S1 up to S10) to guide you through the masses of reports you are inevitably confronted with in NORTHERN UFO NEWS.

UFOs TAKE TO THE ROADS

You will no doubt recall the classic car stop encounter at Nelson, Lancs in early March 1977. It seems that around that time phenomena of some kind were most attracted to roads and road vehicles, as the following two new cases illustrate.

BUFORG relate an intriguing tale of Mr and Mrs B (requesting anonymity) from Coldstream, Roxburgh. Mrs B has quite a psychic background, including seeing a dead aunt looking at her from the foot of her bed. Throughout Winter 76-77 they had seen several LITS and reported them to the local RAF (who proffered no explanation). Then in late Jan/early Feb 1977 late one clear evening the two witnesses were driving on the Lennel Road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Coldstream. Rounding a bend on the road ahead they saw an oblong 'box' about 6-7' wide and longer but lower than a car spanning the middle of the road. It glowed brilliant white and was surrounded by square windows, including the roof! Accelerating to close the 150 yards distance the object accelerated away too, travelling about 6" above the road. After about 50 seconds it just vanished! They stopped at the spot and found no trace of the object or how it could have disappeared. The husband sadly died (aged 69) on September 24th (Keel fans please note!) and on November 29th Mrs B driving with her daughter near Coldstream on a different road, again on a dark evening. A seven foot tall, dark hooded figure lept out of some bushes directly in front of the car. Seeing the figure in the headlight beams the daughter, who was driving, slammed on the brakes, but again the figure just vanished from view.



SUFORS also have come up with the following encounter from late Feb/early March 1977 involving a young engaged couple in their early - late twenties who around 21.20 were driving very slowly on icy roads near Grasby Bottoms, Sth Humberside. Suddenly the car was filled with pulsating orange light, spreading from verge to verge and illuminating everything. The light came from above but could not be seen. Accelerating away about twenty seconds later a small orange globe was seen by both witnesses on the road directly behind them. It beamed out enormous amounts of light. In great fear they quickly sped away, losing sight of the ball due to the terrain. As Nigel Watson says, this could have been "an exceptional form of ball lightning". (77/270)

77/271 October 12 1977 02.00 Denby, Derbyshire MED A NUFOIS S5
A frightening close encounter, but without effects, was reported by five workers on a night shift. First observed as bright lights side by side the object passed directly overhead totally silent. It looked like an oblong with white headlights at each corner and a reddish light on a dome placed on the central underside of the object. NUFOIS are conducting a full investigation, which we hope shall be published shortly in FSR. NB similarities with 77/274 especially, totally independent of course as no publicity has been given to either event.

77/272 November 3 1977 19.05 Nottingham, Notts LOW A NUFOIS S2
A group of witnesses, including a 14 year old boy who first spotted it, observed a light for 35 minutes. It moved erratically in several directions and was capable of fast accelerations. It remained in the same area of sky and disappeared behind a hill.

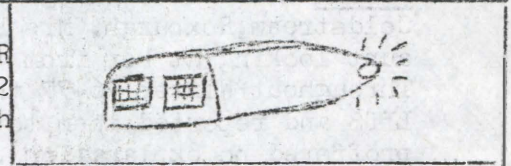
77/273 November 5 1977 01.30 Earl Shilton, Leics MED B HAPI S1
Mrs Halliwell, a heavy sleeper, was awakened by a bright white circle of light that filled the bedroom window for 2/3 minutes. It did not move and just went out. The witness did not awaken her husband and has refused to be interviewed.

Those of you who have seen the film CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND will recall the impressive sight as the gigantic mothership glides silently overhead -- "a sight never reported by UFO witnesses" I recall one investigator saying! Well, as we might expect with this mischevious phenomenon, it's happened! The sighting came to the attention of MUFORA before even the premier of CE3 too.

Partington is an overspill area on the fringes of Manchester to the south west, close to the Cheshire border and on the directly opposite bank of the Ship Canal to Irlam (scene of some interesting encounters of late), it has a famous Shell Oil plant, and Irlam has steelworks and a power station. In many senses ideal attractions for what we know about the likes and dislikes of the UFO phenomenon.

The area has had a history of strange encounters, but none perhaps more impressive than this, which will be featured in full in FSR.

On November 14 1977 at about 17.45 Mrs A and Mrs R (two young middle aged women) got off a bus with 2 male friends. Spotting two very bright lights which were panned like football stadium floodlights a



normal first reaction was that they were connected with Shell. However, when it was realised that they were in the wrong direction (looking north and just 75 feet up it seemed) they became intrigued and frightened. The area became noticeably quiet (although it is by no means heavily urbanised) and the huge lights (needing about half a tabloid newspaper at arms length to cover them) hovered side by side for about two minutes. Then they vanished (the witnesses think because the object carrying them turned on its side) and a huge oblong coloured dark grey appeared. The object approached from their left and passed overhead, just above rooftop height at elevation 45 degrees. It was immense - requiring at least two tabloid newspapers (or - as two witnesses put it - four feet) at arms length to cover it.

In description the UFO had a blunt front end carrying the two headlight beams and the back was rounded with a large red light (itself the size of the moon) at the apex. This pulsed at a slow rate (every three seconds). The witnesses watched in amazed silence as it glided over making no noise at all. The police were called and Manchester Airport contacted. Ringway told the police they had no idea what it was and they did not have it on radar. The police believed the witnesses since two of their officers had previously seen and drawn exactly the same thing! Later a social worker from Warrington came forward and said that he had seen the same thing later that evening further along the Ship Canal near Warrington.

A fascinating tale - made more interesting by the story one of the witnesses was told when she first moved to the area. "What do you think of those flying things we get round here?" When she replied nonplussed the reply came, "Don't go mentioning it around. It only means bother!"

AN ENCOUNTER DOWN ON THE FARM

MUFORA Staffs Report by Martin Keatman 77/275

Mr Arthur Johnson is a farmer in his 60's and the brief details of his encounter at Tittensor, Staffs on an unknown day in December 1977 were carried in the Stoke Sentinel. This led to a barrage of inquiries, letters and report forms - all of which he ignored. He was very helpful but both he and his wife did not want publicity and



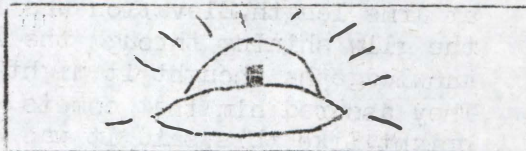
had wished they had not said anything. It was 21.55 and he was going to pick up his wife from a nearby hospital, where she works. Having just left the farm house he observed two bright white lights above one another in the ESE at 50 degrees elevation. Stopping and winding the window down he heard no sound and so, intrigued, switched off the engine and climbed a slight rise. The object depicted had now turned and crossed the road at about 100 feet, banking to pass over a hedge and then round a tree. It climbed and disappeared over the village. There was no sound despite it coming within about 100 feet of him. The base was a rounded cigar about 30' long and 9' tall. It seemed to be metal illuminated by bright white light pouring from a dome (9' x 9') centrally on top. Inside were five or six vertical dark struts. As it banked he saw a small grill on the underside (about 3' diameter) beaming out light that lit up the ground. It was so close he felt he could have hit it with a stone.

77/276 December 26 1977 14.00 Eastham, Msyside MED C WUFOS S1

A young boy reported a round red object with a tail that appeared in the NE sky at elevation 45 degrees and fell silently to earth very fast (in a matter of seconds). This is almost certainly a bright fireball meteor.

HOW TO ANNOY A UFO - WITHOUT REALLY TRYING! BUFORG Report by Alan & Trisha Price
77/277 October 1977 20.00 Coldstream, Roxburgh MED A S6

Two ten year old boys, known to the investigators and trustworthy, report a frightening encounter outside a chipshop. Seeing a glow coming from a side road they took a few steps along and came within 30 feet of a brilliant glowing object. It was hovering just above the road surface and spanned the width of the road. From this and the height of a stone wall aside the road it was possible to ascertain that it was 16 feet across and 6 feet high. Both boys drew the object independently in similar fashion. It was saucer like underneath with a dome on top, seemingly transparent and glowing like a lightbulb overall. Inside the dome was a 'post' or 'strut' and it is to the boys credit that at no point have they tried to claim (as they could easily do) that this was an occupant. They do not think it was animate. The object was making a noise that they describe as a "buzzing rasping". The thing was jumping up and down as if rather angry and as the boys panic mounted it started to hop up and down heading directly towards them! Not surprisingly they made a brave attempt to complete the four minute mile. One of the boys mothers was interviewed and attested that her son was white, shaking and visibly very frightened on arrival home.



There has been quite a flap on in the Border area in late 1977 and early 1978 and BUFORG are busy compiling reports on the most interesting encounters which include the two policemen in Ayton who saw a white disc land late last year, the athlete out running near Paxton in March 1978 when he confronted a domed disc, and a CE3 where the witnesses claim to have seen a UFO with little green men in it (literally!!) and with the number X307 written on the side! This is of course by necessity receiving more stringent investigation than normal! Full reports on these incidents will be carried in issues in the near future. NB (It has just been brought to my notice that Coldstream is in Berwickshire, although very close to the Roxburghshire border)

7853 March 17 1978 22.03 Draycott, Derbyshire MED B NUFOIS S1
A man reported a bright orange cigar shooting across the sky from S to N. It moved very fast and was only visible for 4 or 5 seconds. Before disappearing it split in two. NUFOIS feel that this might well have been a meteorite, but it is yet another encounter on the night of March 17/18 (cf the Risley CE3/CE4 case)

7854 April 4 1978 20.55 Hinckley, Leics LOW A HAPI S1

Two teenage girls report the observation of a white light at elevation 45 degrees flashing on and off steady and moving in an upwards arc from the SE to NE. It was visible 2/3 minutes and made no sound. The night was clear. Investigators found no cause to accept this report as a UFO, and it seems probable it was an aircraft

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE FIRST KIND... UFORA Staffs Report 7855

This title is how the Wolverhampton Express first notified this encounter, that took place on April 17 1978 at 01.00 on the A464 near Oaken on the Staffordshire - Shropshire border. Witness, a Mrs Ritherford, was driving in abnormally heavy traffic, quite slowly, when the road rose to pass an orchard. Looking down she saw



the object as drawn, which she says looked like a fir tree. It was metallic grey with a green fuzzy haze at the rear and reddish sparks shooting out. She says it was about 4 feet long. It hugged the ground as it streaked away, in a hopping fashion. When it reached a small bank it stopped ("as if non-plussed") and then altered direction to accelerate out of sight. It was in view about a minute and the witness did not stop.

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7856 May 25 1978 04.30 Worsley, Gtr Manchester MED B MUFORA S3

This is one of several cases that have suddenly started reaching NUFON via Jodrell Bank! Mr Lancaster was up late because he had just collected his parents by car from Manchester. They had been on a trip south but their car had broken down. Looking west from his bedroom towards Swinton he saw an object moving from NW to the S. It consisted of a small white ball (size of a pea at arms length) and a long tail which trailed sparks a mixture of blue and red. It moved very slowly and was in view about two minutes. Overall the size was that of a 10p piece at arms length. Elevation was low and it was seen behind trees in some points with the glw shining through the leaves. Being totally unfamiliar with astronomical knowledge he thought it might be a new comet so he reported it to Jodrell Bank! They assured him that comets do not cover half the sky in two minutes nor appear bright like this, said it was a UFO (that they did not deal with!) and put him on to us.

7857 May 24/25 1978 Various Anglesey, Gwynedd MED E S4

Further to the above report it seems that North Wales was having some fun at the same time. At Moelfre a single witness observed a white cigar at 19.00 moving from the SW and travelling above the bay. Then just after midnight what appears to have been a bright fireball was observed by many moving out to the west towards the Isle of Man. Residents at Wylfa say it was a huge ball of green fire streaking in an arc round the headland. (MUFORA had several reports of the same thing from Swinton & Eccles). At a mid-morning break on the 25th several pupils at the Rhiwlas school spotted a sausage shape with a dome on top coloured silver, red and white. It was in view for several minutes, moving slowly, before just disappearing in a clear sky. Then it reappeared with two flashing lights and moved out of sight behind buildings.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH

IRISH UFO NEWS (April 1978) 19 Cairshill Ave Belfast BT8 6NR contains several items about the film CLOSE ENCOUNTERS and a full report on the Newbridge Saturn like ufo observation. UFO RESEARCH REVIEW (Spring 1978) NUFOS 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB contains "Another glance at Von Daniken" from Bob Morrell and a transcript of Jenny Randles ufo abduction paper 'Come Fly With Me' given at the NUFON convention in Crewe last February. Don't miss the story on P.14 of the UFO that landed in front of a startled witness, who promptly kicked it, picked it up and carried it to the nearest police station! (Its Irish of course) MUFOB's anniversary issue has an excellent piece in it about future research patterns and also Nigel Watson on the perils of historical ufo research. A must for any serious ufo researcher - and at a price of just £1.25 for four issues you can have no acceptable excuse for not buying it! (11 Beverley Rd New Malden Surrey KT3 4AW) FORTEAN TIMES is another publication that no self respecting ufologist should be without. It proves there are more things to heaven and earth... and UFOs than meets the eye with its miscellany of phenomena such as fables, falls and freaks. Note the new address: DTWAGE 9-12 St Annes Ct LONDON W1 (Please use name) FSR's next issue will feature the Risley CE4 and an EM encounter in North Yorkshire as well as the conclusion of the Aveley abduction and the usual foreign goodies. (FSR Publications West Malling Maidstone Kent) Finally, BUFORA JOURNAL May/Jun 78 has its usual quota of reports and a piece on the IURC (then the BUFORA Irish Branch) and their expedition to see a psychic - with startling results. (BUFORA: 6 Cairn Ave Ealing London W5 5HX)

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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